

Claims:

1. A telephone, wherein:
 - (a) the telephone includes a dialer, and
 - 5 (b) the dialer is ***characterized in that*** it is constructed to:
 - (1) receive graphical information; and
 - (2) convert the graphical information into a dial signal.
2. The telephone of claim 1, wherein the dialer includes a touch-screen and a stylus.
3. A telephone, wherein:
 - 10 (a) the telephone includes a dialer, and
 - (b) the telephone is ***characterized in that***:
 - (1) the telephone further includes a graphic-to-character converter; and
 - (2) the dialer is constructed to:
 - 15 (A) receive a sequence of characters from the graphic-to-character converter; and
 - (B) convert each character to a dial signal.
4. The telephone of claim 3, ***characterized in that*** it further includes means for, if the character is an alpha character:
 - (a) converting the alpha character into an associated numeric character; and
 - 20 (b) converting the numeric character into the dial signal.
5. The telephone of claim 3, ***characterized in that*** it further includes means for, if the character is an alpha character, converting the alpha character into a dial signal associated with a numeric character which is associated with the alpha character.
6. The telephone of claim 3, ***characterized in that*** it further includes means for, if
25 the character is a pause character, converting the pause character into a pause dial signal.

7. A method for dialing a telephone, wherein:

- (a) the method includes a sequence of steps of producing a dial signal; and
- (b) the method is *characterized in that* each step of producing a dial signal includes the steps of:

- 5 (1) entering graphical information;
- (2) converting the graphical information to the dial signal.

8. The method of claim 7, *characterized in that* the step of entering graphical information includes the step of applying a stylus to a touch-screen.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of converting the graphical information to the dial signal is *characterized in that* it includes the steps of:

- (a) converting the graphical information into a character; and
- (b) converting the character into the dial signal.

10. The method of claim 9, *characterized in that* it further includes the steps of, if the character is an alpha character:

- (a) converting the alpha character into an associated numeric character; and
- (b) converting the numeric character into the dial signal.

11. The method of claim 9, *characterized in that* it further includes the step of, if the character is an alpha character, converting the alpha character into a dial signal associated with a numeric character which is associated with the alpha character.

12. The method of claim 9, *characterized in that* it further includes the step of, if the character is a pause character, converting the pause character into a pause dial signal.